different measures for the development of these areas.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the hon. Minister has said that the reconstituted Planning Commission would take into account the cultural traditions as well as the needs and requirements of the people of these border areas. Having said that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his attention had been drawn to the report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Planning and Programme Implementation about inadequacies of border development programmes. Since a study team of the Committee visited some of the North-Eastern States and has brought out the difficulties and constraints of development in that area, would the Minister like to have any evaluation made as to how those difficulties can be removed and correctives provided so that the difficulties in those difficult areas—where the people are not able to go, easily where the people are poor and smuggling, etc., takes place—can be taken care effectively and adequately and not just through assurances only?

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Sir, the Planning Commission is aware of the problems of lack of accessibility, of the problems of unemployment amongst the youth and the need for creating economic opportunities so that the high rate of unemployment amongst the youth can be ameliorated and smuggling and other things are counterbalanced by a development plan. Basically, these questions have to be taken care of in the development plans at the State level. But the Border Area Development Plan, as the hon. Member knows, provides special supplements for employment and training schemes for youth and access questions. In fact, the question of coordination of border roads with development needs was raised by one of the hon. Chief Ministers from the North-Eastern region in the Chief Minister's Conference, and we have agreed to look at that problem in a specific manner as well as the need for involving voluntary organizations to give a sense of security to the citizens of the country in this part of the country, and this will be looked at in considerable detail while finalizing the Five-Year Plan.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: From what the Minister has said, I presume that during the last two months the Prime Minister has taken a decision to complete the work of the reconstitution of the Planning Commission. Since all the Members are supposed to have resigned, when will the exercise of reconstitution be completed? Otherwise the Minister's reply is in a vacuum.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, the Planning Commission is already reconstituted. The names will be announced today itself.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Thank you.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is proposing to open up more border markets in the India-Mayanmar border as well as the India-Bangladesh border to check the prevailing smuggling of different goods in that area?

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Sir, the accessibility of the border talukas is an important question, and roads and markets are an important part of the examination that has to be done.

Demand and Supply of Power in Punjab

*304. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of power and supply position in Punjab;

(b) to what extent the requirement of power is being met by thermal sources;

(c) the present stock of coal with the State for power generation in terms of days;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to short supply of coal to thermal power stations, the State is faced with the breakdown of power grids; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply of coal to thermal power stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During the period April, 1996 to June 1996, the energy requirement in Punjab was 5675 MU against the availability of 5638 MU which represents a marginal energy shortage of 0.7% as against the shortage of 6.8% in the Northern Region and an average shortage of 11.2% in the country.

(b) During the period April 1996 to June 1996, the gross thermal generation in Punjab was 2434 MU.

(c) and (d) The coal stock at Bhatinda and Ropar stations during July, 1996 has been low and varying between nil and four days stock. The primary reason for low stock at the two stations is receipt being less than the linkage by 12% and 14% upto 24th July, 1996 for Bhatinda and Ropar respectively.

(e) The position of coal supply to all the thermal power stations in the country including Punjab is kept under constant review including at a high level fortnightly inter-departmental meeting and remedial action taken from time to time.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान: सर, जो मंत्री जी ने कहा है अगर वह सच होता तो पंजाब में यह हालत न होती। मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि 5675 मि०यू० बिजली पंजाब को चाहिए जब कि वहां बिजली की 5638 मि०यू० सप्लाई है। तो सिर्फ .7 परसेंट बिजली की कमी है जो कि एक परसेंट से भी कम है। लेकिन वहां यह हाल है कि पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने अपने सारे ए०सी० बंद कर रखे हैं, बिजली की शार्टेज की वजह से इमरजेंसी डिक्लेयर कर रखी है, बिजली है नहीं। जो कन्टिनुएस प्रोसेस की इंडस्ट्रीज हैं उनको बिजली नहीं मिलती, उस पर कट लगा हुआ है। खेतों को ही 6 से 8 घंटे बिजली मिल रही है और दो लाख के करीब एग्रीकल्चर कनेक्शन की अप्लीकेशंस पेंडिंग पड़ी हुई है कि हमें कनेक्शन चाहिए। सप्लाई का यह हाल है कि जहां बिजली जाती भी है, उसकी वोल्टेज इतनी कम है कि मोटरें सड़ रही हैं और कभी इतनी ज्यादा बोल्टेज होती है कि बल्ब फट जाते हैं। तो वहां ऐसी हालत है। मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि .7 परसेंट बिजली कम है। तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि कंज्यूमर को बिजली की जिस क्वालिटी का आपका वायदा है, उस क्वालिटी की बिजली दी जाएगी?

उससे स्केंडल होंगे, जिस क्वालिटी की बिजली आप दे रहे हैं या देने के लिए तैयार हैं, अगर नहीं देते हैं बिजली देने वाली संस्थाओं को क्या दंड या जुर्माना देना होगा? अभी पंजाब स्टेट में बिजली बोर्ड ने एक सर्वे किया है जिसमें यह कहा है कि किसानों को जो 44 परसेंट बिजली दी जाती है, कहा जाता है उसमें से 20 परसेंट के करीब बिजली उनको नहीं दी जाती है। वास्तव में उनके खाते में 44 परसेंट लिख दी जाती है। क्या मंत्री जी सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि किसानों के साथ इस तरह धांधली होने से बचने के लिए उनको बिजली अलग से कर दी जाए ताकि यह धोखाधड़ी 44 परसेंट उनके नाम लिखना और 20 परसेंट बिजली कम देना अर्थात् सिर्फ 24 परसेंट बिजली देना बंद हो। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप उनकी बिजली अलाहिदा करेंगे?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as Punjab is concerned, the energy shortage has varied in 1994 and 1995. The energy shortage is 4 per cent. In peak hour it is 30 per cent. Last year there was energy shortage of 2 per cent. This year it is 0.7 per cent. The energy shortage, as per the report, is nil because restrictions have been imposed by the Punjab Electricity Board. They are giving it for eleven hours for the agriculture sector. They are cutting only four hours for the industrial sector.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने फिर कहा कि प्वाइंट सेवन परसेंट बिजली की कमी है। मैं दोबारा यह कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर प्वाइंट सेवन परसेंट बिजली की डिमांड और सप्लाई का फर्क है तो इतने इतने पावर कट क्यों लगे हुए हैं, इतनी एप्लीकेशंस पेंडिंग पड़ी हुई है बिजली बोर्ड के पास, इसका क्या तुक है? 20 परसेंट बिजली खेती को नहीं मिल रही है जो

गलत उनके नाम लिख दी जाती है, उसके होते हुए अगर यह प्वाइंट सेवन परसेंट बिजली की कमी की बात करते हैं तो इसके हिसाब से तो 24 घंटे में 15 मिनट का कट होना चाहिये केलकुलेशन के हिसाब से यह सिर्फ 15 मिनट का कट बनता है। किसी पर 18 घंटे कट है, किसी पर 12 घंटे कट है, खेती को 6 से 8 घंटे बिजली दी जा रही है, इतनी एप्लीकेशंस पेंडिनग पड़ी हुई हैं, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर प्वाइंट सेवन परसेंट वाली बात सही है तो क्या आप सिर्फ 15 मिनट के कट के लिए वचनबद्ध होंगे? मेरे सवाल का पार्ट (बी) यह है कि अगर यह ठीक नहीं है, बिजली वहां बहुत कम है तो क्या बिजली की सप्लाई के लिए एटोमिक पावर प्लांट, गैस बेस्ड पावर प्लांट पंजाब में लगाने के लिए क्या कोई प्रोपोज़ल है क्योंकि वहां तो पावर की भुखमरी पड़ी हुई है, इस फेमिन को दूर करने के लिए क्या आप ऐसे कदम उठाए जाएंगे?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, these figures have been reported by the Punjab State Electricity Board. In Northern india we have Delhi– Haryana– Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. Of all these States, with the help of two thermal power stations located in Punjab, the shortage in Punjab has been brought down to a very low percentage. Because of an accident that took place in the month of July and because of short supply of coal, this shortage has occurred. The Minister of Power has taken decisions from time to time to supply coal to all these State adequately and to overcome the shortage of power.

As regards the feeders, I would like to inform the House that it is not possible to have a separate feeder for supply to agriculture. It is not technically possible to have separate lines for agriculture. As the hon. Members know, in Punjab the losses incurred in agriculture is the tune of over Rs.710 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Employment Opportunities in the Border areas of Punjab

*305. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steps taken by Government to create adequate employment opportunities in the border areas of Punjab during the last three years; and

(b) the number of youths provided with employment so far during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India assists the State Governments in financing the schemes for the creation of employment in their respective States. The principal schemes under which the Government of India interacts directly are IRDP, JRY and BADP. In the JRY, the employment provided was 31.78 lakh mandays in 1992-93, 38.57 lakh mandays in 1993-94, 24.36 lakh mandays in 1994-95 and 6.44 lakh mandays in 1995-96 (upto October, 1995). In addition, the Government of Punjab has in their plan, some schemes such as the Centre for Training and Employment of Punjab Youth (C-PYTE) for employment and absorption in the Army and Para-military forces, construction of link roads in border areas, Self-Employment Scheme of Fisheries Department to provide employment opportunities in border areas.

Promotions of reserved categories in IOC, Faridabad

*306. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's guidelines for promotion of officers of reserved categories vis-a-vis general category are